



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Johann F. Hellenkamp

Serial No.: 10/062,178

Filing Date: January 31, 2002

For: IMPROVED AUTOMATIC SURGICAL DEVICE AND CONTROL
ASSEMBLY FOR CUTTING A CORNEA

Group Art Unit 3731

2800 S.W. Third Avenue
Historic Coral Way
Miami, Florida 33129
February 12, 2003

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT BEFORE ACTION

Please amend the above-referenced patent application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please add the following new claims.

2. A microkeratome cutting blade assembly for use with a surgical device that cuts at least partially across the cornea of an eye of a patient along an arcuate path, comprising:

a blade having a blade holder attached thereto;

said blade having a front portion and rear portion;

said front blade portion having a cutting edge for cutting a



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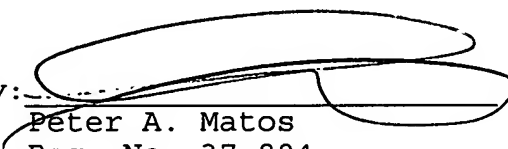
Dear Sir:

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this correspondence is being deposited by United States Express Mail, Label No. EL-920-409-332-US, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, this 12 day of February, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
Peter A. Matos
Reg. No. 37,884

Date: February 12, 2003